

“Somewhere in Belgium”

16/4/16

Dear Gertrude

I was very pleased to get your letter of 10<sup>th</sup> ultimo which I just got as I was leaving for England on leave, so you can judge for yourself if I have a good enough excuse for not writing you. Well I got back about four days ago and I have only succeeded in getting rested up properly now. While away I had a great time but it was to [sic] short and I had a lot of travelling to do which interrupted my already short leave more than ever. The trouble was that I didn't seem to be able to get away from the war for I only succeeded in missing a “zepp” raised in London and then two nights later ran into one in Scotland.

I didn't mind it so much myself only I had all my friends and relatives round me and they were all fairly nervous, while I was very worried about them.

The day after I got back Blaney [sic] and three other boys out of the Grenade section left for ‘Blighty’ to take out their commission, now I hear Kay is trying to get into Matt's battery. I haven't seen Matt yet but hope for that pleasure soon.

All my friends seem to be going away for commissions, getting wounded, or transferring to other outfits so I have applied for a commission myself in Captain Foster's Trench Mortars Battery, and I saw the captain last night and he seems to think I will get it shortly. If all the old bunch were here I wouldn't bother but now as I hardly have an old friend left I don't see why I shouldn't take a commission to [sic], what do you say?

I'm so glad that you have at last been able to banish the dreaded ‘mumps’ from the home fortunes and I sincerely hope that you may be able to replace any further attacks of any description.

Yes! Your supposition is correct. I think if those CMRs were being trained in Infantry work by those who had learnt their lessons from experience then they would be much better off. We for instance, will be turned into mounted Infantry sooner than any of these later mounted outfits, but we never expect to need much cavalry now and the Imperial Service have enough, and better trained cavalry than we need. So I don't see any use for them practicing mounted work.

The concert you attended in the Alexandria Club must have been fancy when there was some one singing that he wanted to die. We all sing out here after this fashion “Oh, I don't want to die, I don't want to go home.” Some difference eh what? But then we are both under such different conditions. We have every chance to ‘die’ and he has none except from natural causes. You bet I remember the mirror you mention many a time I have watched some pretty flapper's graceful movements reflected and I wonder how many things of interest it could tell if it could only write its own biography.

Yes! I remember Vera Hume by sight only, but and I talk to.

Yes! I wish I was going to the ‘tea’ you mentioned but am afraid I'd be anything but a success as I can do anything almost but kind. I hope you enjoyed yourself. Now I must close

With love

From

Buster

"Somewhere in Belgium"  
16/1/16.

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